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AFGHANISTAN

FIRST PERSON A Beautiful Afghan Business Venture

Vocational training in southern Afghanistan helps one woman to set up shop and achieve a cherished dream



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‘This is a dream come true for me. I learned so much at the training and have become so confident that I was able to start my own beauty business’

- Farzana, mother of six

For years, Farzana dreamt of running a business and earning enough to support her family. Her husband was unemployed, and it was a struggle to rear six children on the small amounts Farzana earned from taking in sewing.

Farzana’s dreams became reality when the municipal authority in her city, Lashkar Gah developed a business-training scheme for women like her. The three-month program, supported by USAID’s Regional Afghan Municipalities Program for Urban Populations (RAMP UP) – South, taught Farzana all she needed to know about becoming beautician.

Farzana set up shop in her own home. Soon, she was able to support her family and had enough left over to register her business with the municipality.

“This is a dream come true for me,” she says, referring to the steady increase in satisfied customers.